

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 13
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
October 15, 2013

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Indian mainstem commercial salmon
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Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Fall Factsheet #1, dated July 25, 2013

Stock Status

- Passage of adult fall Chinook at Bonneville Dam through October 10 totals over 920,000 fish. Passage is nearly complete, but daily counts continue to be much better than average. The 2013 Columbia River return is currently projected to reach nearly 1,200,000 adult fall Chinook, including 832,500 Upriver Bright Chinook.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam through October 10 totals 223,100 fish. The run is nearly complete; counts continue through October 31. TAC estimates the total return will consist of 213,000 Group A stock and 10,700 Group B stock.
- Passage of coho at Bonneville Dam through September 30 totaled 33,000 early stock adult coho, which was 34% of the expected passage of 96,000 fish.
- Beginning October 1, coho passing Bonneville Dam are considered late stock fish. A total of 28,400 late coho are expected to pass based on the preseason forecast for late coho. Counts during October 1- 10 total 12,000 adult coho. Passage of late stock coho is typically 50% complete by October 12.
- Coho are just beginning to enter the lower river tributaries and return to the hatcheries, so information on run strength is currently limited.
 - Washington tributaries are generally tracking similar to expectations, although it is very early in the season to measure hatchery returns.
 - Oregon data suggests the coho returns are generally within expectations given the time of year. Although counts are ongoing at Willamette Falls, over 10,600 coho have been counted at Willamette Falls. Coho counts on the Clackamas River total 1,050 coho to date. Coho catch in the Select Areas will be similar to preseason expectations.
- Chum salmon are typically later-timed and return to the Columbia during early October through December. Chum salmon are primarily from natural production, although there are hatchery enhancement programs in place which release fed-fry. Columbia River chum are ESA-listed. The chum population is relatively small compared to the abundant coho and Chinook stocks.

Non-Indian Commercial Fishery

- 2013 non-Indian commercial mainstem fall fisheries through October 11 have landed an estimated 84,000 Chinook, 6,600 coho and 1,000 sturgeon.
- A full-fleet pilot mark-selective coho fishery is currently in place that includes eight (12-hour) periods scheduled to occur during October 2-15. The fishery is conducted in Zones 1-3 during daylight hours using ≤ 3.75 -inch tangle nets. Effort and catch in this fishery was less

than expected. Estimated catch for all fishing periods is expected to include 5,000 hatchery coho (1,800 un-clipped coho released) and 2,200 Chinook.

- Preseason planning included additional target coho periods with unslackened 6-inch maximum mesh if coho remain available for harvest after the pilot tanglenet fishery was complete.
- Based on current runsize projections, allowable ESA impacts and catch estimates, Chinook and coho remain available for commercial harvest.

SALMON FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation - Non-Indian Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season:	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Wednesday October 16, 2013 (12 hours each) 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday October 21, 2013 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Wednesday October 23, 2013
Area:	Zones 1-3. Upper deadline defined as a straight line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore easterly through the green navigation Buoy #1 and continuing to the Washington shore
Sanctuaries:	Elokomin-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A and Lewis-A
Gear:	Drift nets only. 6-inch maximum mesh. Unslackened floater drift net.
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, coho and pink salmon and shad. White sturgeon and chum salmon may not be possessed or sold.
Additional Rules:	<p>Multiple net rule in effect: Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater.</p> <p>Lighted Buoys: Nets that are fished at any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net unless the net is attached to the boat. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the opposite end of the net from the boat is required</p> <p>24-hour quick reporting required is for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-69-240.</p>

- Estimated catch is 5,000 coho and 1,500 Chinook.
- Shifting the fleet from Sunday/Tuesday/Thursday to a Monday/Wednesday rotation will help reduce user-group conflicts on the weekend since coho fishing periods typically occur during daylight hours. Initiating the fishery tomorrow morning (Wednesday) provides limited time for commercial fishers to change nets. However, a Thursday fishery would conflict with a commercial fishery meeting scheduled for the same day.

<i>Recommendation - 2013 Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season:	Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday nights
Dates:	October 17-25, 2013 (4 nights)
Open Hours:	7 PM to 7AM (12-hours)
Area:	Zones 4-5. Lower deadline defined as a straight line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore easterly through the green navigation Buoy #1 and continuing to the Washington shore
Sanctuaries:	Washougal and Sandy Rivers
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction.
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, coho and pink salmon and shad. White sturgeon and chum salmon may not be possessed or sold.
Additional Rules:	<p>Multiple net rule in effect: Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater.</p> <p>Lighted Buoys: Nets that are fished at any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net unless the net is attached to the boat. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the opposite end of the net from the boat is required</p> <p>24-hour quick reporting required is for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-69-240.</p>

- Catch estimates include 1,600 Chinook and 300 coho.

Non-Indian Fisheries ESA Impact Estimates

- Estimates include complete, on-going, and proposed fishery impacts.
 - Lower Columbia natural (LCN) Chinook = 36.0% compared to the 38.97% limit.
 - Wild Group B steelhead = 1.9% compared to the 2.00% limit.
 - Upriver Bright (URB) Chinook = 12.0% compared to the 15.0% limit.
 - Lower Columbia River (LCR) coho = 13.7% compared to the 15.0% limitation.
 - Wild B steelhead are the most constraining for non-Indian fisheries.

Future Meetings

- The Joint staff will recommend additional hearings as needed.